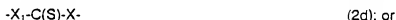


Z is a group which functions as a triggerable precursor for carbene or nitrene formation:

A is a radical of formula

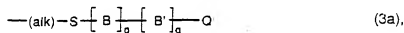


X and X<sub>1</sub> are each independently of the other a group -O- or -NR<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;

A<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-alkyl which may be interrupted by -O-;

R is linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkylene or unsubstituted or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl- or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy-substituted C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-aralkylene, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkylene-C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkylene-C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene-C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene; and (oligomer) is

(i) the radical of a telomer of formula



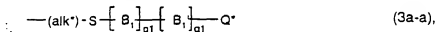
wherein (alk) is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkylene,

Q is a monovalent group that is suitable to act as a polymerization chain-reaction terminator,

p and q are each independently of another an integer from 0 to 750, wherein the total of (p+q) is an integer from 2 to 750,

and B and B' are each independently of the other a 1,2-ethylene radical derivable from a copolymerizable vinyl monomer by replacing the vinylic double bond by a single bond, at least one of the radicals B and B' being substituted by a hydrophilic substituent; or

(i-i) the radical of a telomer of formula



wherein (alk<sup>\*</sup>) Q<sup>\*</sup>, p<sub>1</sub> and q<sub>1</sub> each independently have the meaning of (alk), Q, p and q,